THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The details of bonds/deposits/schemes in which the interest earned is free of income-tax are as under :

(Rs. in Crore)

		Rate of interest per annum	Total outstanding at the end of 1995-96
1.	Relief Bonds	9% - 10% (currently 10% Relief 1995 Bonds are on tap for subscription)	2135.00
2.	Special deposits scheme, 1975 for Non-Govt. Provident/ Superannuation/ Gratuity Fund	12%	68944.00
3.	Public Provident Fund Scheme, 1968	12%	11825.00
4.	Deposit Scheme for Retiring Government Employees, 1989 and Deposit Scheme for Retiring employees of Public Sector companies, 1991	10%	102.17
5.	Post Office Savings Account	5.5%	19756.00
6.	State Provident Funds	12%	17707.00

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of SC/ST

1164. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts reserved for SC/STs filled in during the last one year and the number of posts still lying vacant in his Ministry; and

(b) the time-bound programme chalked out by the Government to fill up such posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Electronic Data Interchange

1165 SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are planning to open up more Electronic Data Interchange (EDI);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the Ports and Airports being benefited; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Government of India have implemented EDI at Delhi Custom House through NICNET, a satellite based computer communication network of the National Informatics Centre. It is proposed to open EDI in all Custom Houses throughout the country during the year 1997-98.

[Translation]

Katihar Jute Mills

1166. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the old jute mill located at Katihar has been lying closed since long time;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to revive the above jute mills; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal before the Government to revive the closed mill at Katihar.

[English]

Trade Relation with Germany

1167. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have signed a bilateral trade relation agreement with Germany;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints about these bilateral relations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government of India has signed two bilateral trade agreements with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on 19.3.1952 and 31.3.1995. These agreements aim at promotion of trade relations between the two countries and for cooperation in other areas like industry, ports, shipping etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.